

WHO WILL BE CHOSEN STATE CHAIRMAN?

Spirited Contest in Progress Between Messrs. Ellyson and Lawless, but the Best of Feeling Prevails—Both are Popular.

CLAIMS PUT FORTH BY FRIENDS OF THE TWO DISTINGUISHED ASPIRANTS.

Among the many political contests now in progress in Virginia, that for the chairmanship of the State Democratic Committee, between the faithful present incumbent—Hon. J. Taylor Ellyson—and the popular young Secretary of the Commonwealth—Hon. Joseph T. Lawless—is by no means the least interesting. Indeed, it appears that almost as much anxiety is felt by the friends of the two distinguished aspirants as to the final result as is being manifested over the outcome of some of the struggles for offices of emolument to be decided by the next State Convention.

One thing may be said, however, which reflects great credit on all parties concerned; and that is, that while there are evidences of activity on both sides, yet—certainly up to this point—the fight has been conducted on a very lofty plane, and no word which would detract in the remotest degree from the high character or splendid ability of either of the distinguished leaders has been heard from any source whatsoever. The State Convention, which will probably meet in July or August, to nominate candidates for Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, and Attorney-General, will, when all is said and done, have been given out, choose a chairman, who will hold office until the next convention shall meet.

The position is one that is crowded with responsibilities and intricate duties; and while there is no salary attached to it, it is looked upon as a high honor, and something higher and better in the way of political honors, and it has not been infrequently the case that some of the choicest plums have fallen into the lap of a State chairman when the time was being chosen.

Ellyson has been the very faithful chairman of the Virginia State Committee for about ten years, and has several times had the honor thrust upon him against his wishes. While he has made no formal declaration of his candidacy for re-election, yet his friends know that if the party desires him to remain at the helm, he will do so, with that same degree of cheerfulness with which he has responded to every call made upon him since he became an active worker in the cause of Democracy many years ago.

CAN BOAST OF A FINE RECORD. There are but few men in Virginia (if indeed there are any) whose records for long and faithful party service, cheerfully rendered, will measure up to that of the present efficient chairman, and it is no disparagement to any to say that there are none who are better known, lower branch he presided with much ability for several terms. He was nominated and elected to the State Senate from Richmond and Henrico, and before his term had expired, he was elected Mayor of Richmond. He served several terms in this high station, and then declined to run for re-election. In 1880, Mr. Ellyson was chosen to the chairmanship of the State Committee to succeed the Hon. Basil B. Gordon, of Rappahannock, who retired on account of ill health, and has since been re-elected by each succeeding convention.

When he assumed the helm, the party throughout the State was in a sad plight. In the preceding presidential contest Mr. Cleveland had barely secured the electoral vote, and a divided delegation was returned to Congress, while there was a very large minority representation in the Virginia Legislature. The very next General Assembly—chosen in the fall of 1880—contained only two or three Republicans and Independents, and in 1882 the old Commonwealth returned a solid Democratic delegation to Congress, and gave Mr. Cleve-

land a majority of about 50,000. The triumphant election of Governor O'Ferrall and an almost solidly Democratic Legislature followed in 1882, and in each succeeding contest, under Mr. Ellyson's splendid management, the party has marched "from victory unto victory," electing Democratic Governors, Congressmen and legislators by ever increasing majorities.

TRAINS IN THE YOUNGER CLASS. Hon. Joseph T. Lawless, whose friends throughout the State are pressing his claims for the chairmanship, belongs to the younger element of the party, but he is very popular, and is recognized as a campaign manager of no mean ability. Mr. Lawless was warmly urged by his friends to stand for the position before the Norfolk Convention last year, but he finally declined, and announced that he would be a candidate before the coming convention.

Mr. Lawless, although active in the local politics in Portsmouth and Norfolk county for a long time, made his first winning stroke as an organizer when as Governor O'Ferrall's campaign manager for the Second District, in 1886, he brought up a solid Democratic "tidewater" for the Valley candidate. He was then a member of the State Senate, and, having that laudable ambition which fires the hearts of so many young Virginians to hold high office, he announced his candidacy for Secretary of the Commonwealth and defeated Hon. Henry W. Flournoy, an old war-horse, by a handsome majority in the caucus. He has been re-elected by each succeeding Legislature without opposition.

Mr. Lawless is a man of fine address, is a most agreeable companion, and has strong friends all over the State, who are working hard for his success. He is a lawyer of recognized ability, and is a close student of governmental affairs. There are few men in the State who are in closer touch with what is going on in politics than Mr. Lawless, and he is often called upon to help his friends when they need "direction water," and he never fails to respond cheerfully and substantially.

When Congressman Maynard gave the "distress signal" last fall Mr. Lawless rushed to his rescue, and it is said that but for his splendid management of his contest some other candidate would have received the nomination and been the representative from the Second District in the Fifty-seventh Congress.

THE ARGUMENTS ADVANCED. Of course, there are always reasons, and often strong ones, advanced for the candidacy of men for office. The contest for the chairmanship furnishes no exception. The friends of Mr. Ellyson are banking on his long and faithful party record, and the fact that while he has held the position of chairman, there have been no party reverses; and they say it would look like ingratitude to turn him down when he is asking no additional honors. They contend that he has friends all over the State, who would have gladly enlisted under his banner for governor, and that all these and more will be found helping him for re-election to the chairmanship.

Mr. Lawless' friends, on the other hand, are putting forth the claim that greater activity is needed in the management of the party's affairs, and that it is time a man younger and perhaps more active were put at the helm.

The say in view of probable reforms in the matter of suffrage, which they expect the Constitutional Convention to make, new blood should be brought into the management of Democracy's affairs, and that their man measures up to all the requirements and would make an ideal chairman. The fight is going to be a very pretty one, and there are few unbiased politicians who will risk their judgment on the result. One thing is very certain, and that is that whoever shall win out, the affairs of the party will not suffer, for no man questions the ability of either of the candidates for a moment.

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THE ASTOUNDING WICKEDNESS GOING ON IN NEW YORK CITY

Regeneration, Not Reform, Needed in the Great Empire City.

GAMBLING IN WALL STREET.

The Game of Chance Appeals to High and Low Alike, and Fortunes Are Made and Lost in a Day.

By JAMES MARTHAL.
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NEW YORK, March 9.—New York is in the hands of demoralized bands of reformers who are endeavoring to make it a spotless town. Their work is described by a Tammany Hall leader as "an organized movement to pander to the moral sentiment of the community." It is, in fact, a periodic spasm of virtue which manifests itself at regular intervals and generally before a mayoralty election. The "ins" are always charged by the "outs" as maintaining vice and crime as an industry and by sharing in the profits of joint-keepers and gambling-house proprietors. Sodom and Gomorrah, the cities of antiquity which have held the palm for four-ply, copper-riveted and double-bolted wickedness, are said to be outdistanced by this metropolis, and its satiation from moral ruin can only be accomplished by the election of a mayor hostile to the bad men of Tammany.

I have seen something of the wickedness of New York during a period of twenty-five years. During that time all kinds of men have been elected mayors, and they have represented every kind of political organization. Candidly, I have seen very little difference in "the sin-pots of the big city," whoever the mayor may have been; indeed, it may not be inapt to quote Thomas Jefferson in 1823, who aptly said: "New York, like London, seems to be a cloaca of all the depravities of human nature."

AN UP-HILL JOB. I would like to see every eye and hamlet in the United States to be without a glimmer. I would, indeed, rejoice if jails, penitentiaries and prisons were unnecessary; if all women were, as Caesar desired his wife to be, and no man's mind entertained thoughts of prostitution or of avarice. But I fear as long as man is

immense, so-will. Manhattan, hence Manhattan can be styled the wealthiest and wickedest borough in the United States. The peculiarities of its sections have determined in the main its precincts of vice. Twenty-two years ago Broadway, with in the shadow of Grace Church steeple and A. T. Stewart's Tenth-Street store; Green Street, running from Canal to Fourth Street, parallel to Broadway by two blocks, was infested with dice and saloons that were horrible. They were driven out as the property became valuable as sites for great stores, and not by reformers. Yet in those days the reformer was abroad. To-day the value of real estate for those purposes has been estimated the sequestration. That portion of the once-famous Tenderloin district, skirting the neighborhood of great hotels, was infested by undesirable people, parasites, in his well-known efforts to cleanse the town, descended upon it and drove the social outcasts abroad. They swarmed into respectable flat-houses.

GAMBLING-HOUSE EVIL. The gambling-house evil, like that of the social evil, caters to all classes of the community, and both are liberally supported by men recruited from the most cultivated, wealthy and prominent walks of the city. The "policy-shop" is run in every part of the city. The customers are legion. They exist at the expense of a liberal patronage. The "newsboy," the "office-boy," the "bookkeeper," the "clerk," all classes, have their favorite resorts. To suppress one means to create another. They spring up over-night.

Places like Canfield's, adjoining Delmonico's cafe, Reed's, the Hoffman House, are only open to men of fashion and recognized wealth and position. After the theatres they are crowded with men bearing honored names. Their excellent, their attention and services are unmatched. Men risking fortunes, millions, on the ups and downs of the stock, cotton and produce market play faro or roulette, risking a few thousands, as a mere amusement. The fever of gambling consumes them by day and by night.

The most mammoth gambling establishment in New York city is the Stock Exchange. Here the game is played for high and low stakes. When the reformers begin to earnest they must first put the seal of disapproval upon the licensed gamblers of the Exchange. These two evils, colossal and destructive, rise like huge, menacing specters, over the young and old, but they appeal to men whose natures respond. It is not the reformer who is needed; it is the Reformer. Reformer, in the words of observation and study, and it is not to state that these evils have kept pace with the development of the city, and, comparatively speaking, New York is no worse to-day than it was when Jefferson wrote.

THAT BIG STEEL DEAL. Wall Street has fairly recovered from the surprise Pierpont Morgan gave it when he launched the Steel Trust. Wall Street recovered rapidly from its surprise. President Gates, of Federal Steel fame, could not impress Morgan by his blue-striped shirt, his cattle-vard manners, or his desire "to let the boys in," or "out," as the case might have been. The King Morgan desired to save Gates' friends from the armies of steel companies' stocks out of a kindly regard for them, or to save the water in the stocks from being shaken by the storm of the hands, is a mooted question. Bubbles are being blown big and round, bigger and rounder than ever before, and this is the "combination of properties" is the largest of the kind in the world. Exposed to two dangers—disintegration from its own enormity and the wrath of the people. The programme of reducing expenses by cutting off employees in all the great steel companies, and making exacting contracts for supplies, for destroying competition among buyers, in fact, upon the very grounds of the arguments advanced for the unification of interest, will create a deep and bitter hostility. Of the \$1,200,000 of alleged property values how much represents the cash actually invested?

To indicate how sensitive to every breath these monster corporations are, it is sufficient to say that the stock of the American Smelting and Refining Company went up and down upon the mere statements of Mr. H. Rogers' position toward the consolidation with the Guggenheim's Sons. In fact, he was the only director who voted against the resolution. The Street has the greatest confidence in Mr. Guggenheim, as the firm is favorably reformed as always protecting its share-holders.

THE RHYTHM OF THE STOCK. Thomas P. Ryan is in the city, elated with his success in combining the traction companies of Chicago. Mr. Ryan has behind him not only the famous clique composed of William C. Whitney, Stephen Elkins and Anthony Brady, but the Morgan Trust Company and Pierpont Morgan & Co. Mr. Ryan is considered to be one of the ablest re-organizers and financiers in the Street. Twenty years ago he was a "two-dollar broker" on the Exchange. James R. Keene suddenly walks up and down the small room in the brokerage office of J. Talbot Taylor & Co., and retain his old-time grip on the active stocks. Mr. Taylor is his son-in-law. Samuel Q. Brown, president of the Tide Water Oil Company, is one of the most recently-arrived magnates in the Street. He has won for himself a reputation for fair dealing and for doing things right. I. N. Seligman is a man worth watching. His influence is growing fast as a controlling force.

THE BALTIMORE CONFERENCE. The Four-Year Limit Has Been Removed. Entertainments in Rouse Hall. (Special Dispatch to The Times.) WINCHESTER, Md., March 9.—Rev. Dr. Hyde, confederate of the Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and there are few unbiased politicians who will risk their judgment on the result. One thing is very certain, and that is that whoever shall win out, the affairs of the party will not suffer, for no man questions the ability of either of the candidates for a moment.

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ANOTHER VIRGINIA NATURAL BRIDGE

Lee County Has One That Carries a Wagon Road.

STREAM PLAYS HIDE AND SEEK.

The Natural Curiosities of the Southwest Highly Interesting—Large Stream that Bursts from Mountain Side. Lee County for Montague.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.)

JONESVILLE, VA., March 9.—It is, perhaps, not generally known that Virginia has another Natural Bridge besides the one in Rockbridge county, which "carries a highway, spans a river and makes two mountains one."

Lee county boasts of the second, and while it is not such a magnificent piece of "Nature's handiwork," as the one just mentioned, yet it is well worth seeing. About two miles west of here and pursuing a westerly course for the most part, is Browning's Creek, which undertakes to play "hide and seek" and its limped, gurgling waters seem to say with great appropriateness, "Now you see me, now you don't." Disappearing in the ground in an open field, this stream flows under ground for about a mile when it makes its appearance only to disappear again in about 100 yards; then, after flowing under ground for about 50 yards it makes its appearance again for less than 25 yards, when it passes from view for about 200 yards; then it again comes in full view, and after a graceful curve of about 25 yards, goes under a natural bridge over which a public country road passes. A horseman can easily ride under the bridge. The water, so often disappearing above, flows between regular strata of limestone rock, and the general appearance of the surface of the earth is the same as that seen in other limestone regions where our natural wonders are found.

NATURAL TUNNEL ROUTE. From Bristol to Big Stone Gap runs the Virginia and Southwestern Railway, formerly the South Atlantic and Ohio. This is known as the "Natural Tunnel Route," so named on account of a natural tunnel in Scott county, not far below Galax City. The trains pass through this tunnel, as does also a clear mountain stream of considerable size. One end of this tunnel would easily accommodate four tracks, while the other end is somewhat more narrow. The scenery of the approach to this tunnel is wild and grand.

BURSTS FROM MOUNTAIN SIDE. Scott county has another natural curiosity in a large stream which bursts from the mountain side, flows across the road and goes down the mountain like a cataract. Its source has never been discovered.

Politics absorb the interest of almost everybody. Several prospective representatives in the Constitutional Convention from Lee are mentioned, but there is as yet no avowed candidates. The people say emphatically that in the gubernatorial fight this county will undoubtedly be for Montague.

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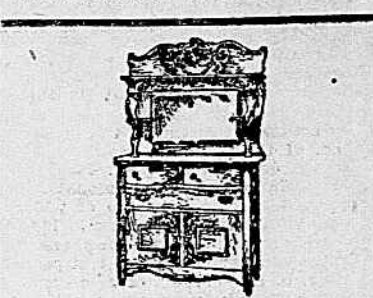
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Nations of the World

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NEW YORK'S SAD PLIGHT. A BIG SPECTACLE OF VICE

Politics in Which Governor, Mayor, Commissioners and Syndicate All Figure.

THE ALLEGED CRUSADE A FARCE

Tammany Hall in the Game and Big Rake-Offs Are Gathered in from Time to Time.

By W. T. MANNING.
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NEW YORK, March 9.—To an observer not accustomed to the apathy of the citizens of our great American cities the picture of social, economic and political conditions in New York, as reflected by the great daily press and merchant alike, would create sensations of surprise and astonishment. It is openly charged that a condition of vice and crime flourishes under the auspices of such brazened local government, as roving physical vigor and striking a death blow to industry and industry, flourish, it is alleged, under the protection of a political syndicate. A syndicate so powerful in it, that it levies tribute upon a brother keeper and game-law proprietor, and near the seeds of degradation and destroying innocence by contamination. Gambling dens and pool-rooms infest all the districts, from the aristocratic sections of the city to the most cultured and refined classes of the great metropolis. In these places, these pest-holes, preying upon the health and wealth of the citizen and the stranger, destroying physical vigor and striking a death blow to industry and industry, flourish, it is alleged, under the protection of a political syndicate. A syndicate so powerful in it, that it levies tribute upon a brother keeper and game-law proprietor, and near the seeds of degradation and destroying innocence by contamination. Gambling dens and pool-rooms infest all the districts, from the aristocratic sections of the city to the most cultured and refined classes of the great metropolis. In these places, these pest-holes, preying upon the health and wealth of the citizen and the stranger, destroying physical vigor and striking a death blow to industry and industry, flourish, it is alleged, under the protection of a political syndicate. 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